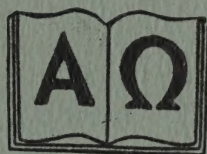


1842

1967

"The Church of the Living God"



**HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

NEAR COLE CAMP

125th Anniversary Booklet

The cover is green, the color for Life, and depicts the essence of Christianity. On the lower side we see the Bible, which brings us in print the word of the Living God. Through the Word the Holy Spirit comes to us and calls us to Christ who is the Son of God, who instituted the Sacrament for our personal forgiveness of sins. On the cross at the left we see the symbol for Christ who says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end, the first and the last."

Amen

Dedicated to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the blessings bestowed on His people.

Preface

"The House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the Pillar and ground of the truth" 1 Timothy 3:15. How appropriately this describes Holy Cross congregation consisting of the saints of God, "Who are the temple of the living God" of whom God says, "I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

We of this congregation believe, teach and confess that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and true man, born of the virgin Mary. We also state as our conviction that the Triune God is both immanent and transcendent. By this we mean that we acknowledge that He is the Lord of both our life, which we give to Him, and also that He rules the entire world. He is the God of History. Indeed He is Lord of all.

Introduction

God, in His omniscience, placed Holy Cross congregation here for a purpose and continues to bless her. At this time in its history, Holy Cross still shows every indication of vigorous life. "Life--New Life", the theme of the 450th anniversary of Lutheranism, which is also being celebrated this year; is very actively portrayed in this House of God which is celebrating the 125th year of service to God under His grace. We need not wonder why! The reverence and love for God's Word and the proclamation of Law and Gospel from the pulpit of the church give evidence to the reason for God's blessings. Even during the vacancies, some of them extended, faithful provisions were always made to have the Word preached from Holy Cross' Pulpit. "That the Word of God might not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people so that they may grow in steadfast faith and abide in the same until the end" has always been the objective.

In recent years the pessimists have optimistically attempted to persuade Holy Cross to resign herself to the times and close the door. Their contention being that Holy Cross couldn't hope to have their own Pastor; besides, one in town congregation should be able to serve the entire area.

God willed otherwise. He kept the members of the church faithful in spite of all discouragements and obstacles which arose.

Even after many calls the members were not discouraged. Fin-

ally the congregation received a Pastor from the Springfield Seminary, who served as a vicar for eight (8) months and was then ordained and installed simultaneously in Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

In all of this we see God's grace and mercy in that He has spared and preserved this congregation. It is therefore to give due recognition to the mighty river of God's grace and to record His blessings; as well as to inspire, incite and give strength to the present and future generations that they should be faithful, have courage of convictions and sincere in their confessions that these words are set down.

For the historical facts recorded in this book we are indebted primarily to the work of the Rev. Walter C. O. Schroeder, who authored the "Centennial Anniversary" booklet. Additional historical facts were located in the book "Government In The Missouri Synod" by Munding.

Organization

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Cross of Christ at Lake Creek is the mother church of all Lutheran congregations in Benton, Morgan, and Pettis Counties, Missouri. As early as the year of 1839 a number of families emigrated from Hanover, Germany, and settled in the northeastern part of Benton County and surrounding territory. At first they were served by an itinerant preacher of the Methodist Church, named Walkenhorst. Evidently this proved to be unsatisfactory to most of the settlers, for in the oldest record of the congregation still in existence, in the minutes of a meeting held on January 30, 1843, it is stated: "Since the necessity had long been felt in the settlement of German inhabitants here in the Counties of Benton, Morgan, and Pettis to have regular divine services, also a German and English school; and since the majority of inhabitants had frequently expressed the wish to that effect, it was arranged to have the inhabitants meet, in order that a plan might be prepared according to which this goal might be attained. As a result a plan was drawn up to the effect that efforts should be made to obtain a pastor and teacher who had the testimony of being a properly educated and ordained preacher." A committee was elected which was to propose the necessary resolutions at a future date to meet these requirements. On the above mentioned date this committee submitted seventeen regulations for the establishment and maintenance of a congregation. Briefly these regulations provided that

any family living in the settlement could become a member of said congregation by signing these regulations. Those entering the congregation prior to February 10th were to pay a two-dollar entrance fee. This two-dollar fee would apply also to future immigrants, provided that they affiliated with the congregation within three months after their arrival. Those joining later were to pay five dollars. Members were required to pay into the congregational treasury fees as stipulated: baptism, two dollars; wedding, two dollars; funeral, one dollar, and two dollars a year for each child sent to school. Non-members were assessed as follows: baptism, three dollars; wedding, six dollars; funeral, three dollars, and one dollar a month for each child sent to school. Members obligated themselves to help with and pay for the erection of the church, the school, and the parsonage; the congregation promised to acquire the furniture and books necessary for the school and divine services. Membership would be for life, provided the member fulfilled his obligations set forth in the regulations. However, one could sever his connections with the congregation at any time by giving notice to the elders of ones intention three months prior to the year's end. A building on the Henry Windler farm was to serve as a temporary church and school; but there was a provision that for the convenience of many of the settlers, divine worship services would at times be conducted in various areas of the settlement. Five elders were elected: Jacob Timken, Claus Boschen, Henry Weymuth, Ulrich Freund, and Peter Mueller. At the end of this meeting and during the remainder of the year of 1842, sixty-five heads of families signed the regulations. As a result the congregation at Lake Creek came into existence.

But one drawback soon became apparent. The regulations which were originally drawn up made no provisions or requirements in regard to a profession of faith from those joining the congregation. The first pastor, the Rev. Wege, was not satisfied with this condition, and finally he persuaded the congregation to consider the adoption of a constitution which would require adherence to the doctrines of Scripture as taught by the Lutheran Church. The first meeting on record, in which such a constitution was considered, was held on October 27, 1847, the year of the official organization of the Missouri Synod. On August 10, 1848, an acceptable constitution was adopted by the twenty-six members remaining in the congregation. This constitution declared that the congregation was to be purely Lutheran in doctrine and life, form and usages. Pastor Wege, who at this time had received a call to another congregation, was recalled as pastor on the basis of the newly adopted constitution, and thus the first chapter of the congregation's existence was ended.

According to insights provided for us by the records of Rev. Wege, during the period between 1842 and 1849, one hundred and twenty (120) families joined the congregation. They had emigrated from their homeland primarily to improve their economic

and social conditions. The majority had been baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, but many of them fostered reformed and rationalistic ideas and some adhered to Catholicism. The result was that during the first six years of the congregation's existence twenty-three families joined the Methodist Church and seventeen families withdrew from the congregation for reasons unknown today. At the same time seven families moved away and five members deceased.

Additionally, in 1847, twenty members organized Immanuel congregation three miles southeast of Cole Camp and called their own pastor. Twenty-one members in the Richland, presently called Pymont area, likewise formed their own congregation. So of the original one hundred and twenty (120) families, only twenty-seven were listed as members of the congregation in August of 1848.

A note written at that time states: "After the congregation had held several meetings in which it considered the call of Pastor Wege to another place, and the members of Richland had finally separated themselves from the congregation, the rest--twenty-six in number--again called Pastor Wege. Therewith began not only a new period in the history of the congregation, but also a complete transformation of the same."

The first meeting after the reorganization took place on August 28, 1848. Peter Mueller, Henry Holtzen and Henry Schroeder were elected to the "jury" or council of the congregation. Harm Heimsoth and Joachim Gruben were elected elders. The distance of four miles from the church was designated as the boundary line of the congregation, and the people within that area were asked to join the congregation. Finally a proclamation was drawn up announcing the reorganization and inviting the people within the designated territory to become members of the congregation.

According to the church records, conditions within the congregation were quiet during the next six years. In January, 1854, the pastor reported a voting membership of fifty-four. On June 18, 1854, twelve members formally severed their affiliation with the congregation. At first they demanded the use of the church building for separate services and later a division of the congregation's property. This was finally refused by the congregation as untenable. The result being that these twelve with a few others, who also left the congregation during the course of the year, later formed their own congregation near by and were served by the neighboring pastor, Christian Meyer. Christian Meyer was at that time no longer in agreement with the pastor and members here. In January of 1855 the membership of the congregation had again been reduced to thirty-five members.

At the end of 1855 Pastor Wege received another call. Though recognizing the faithfulness with which Pastor Wege had upheld

Lutheran doctrine and principles in its midst, the congregation realized that the difficulties experienced had left their marks on the pastor, consequently a peaceful dismissal was granted.

The congregation received the name of "Cross" or "To The Cross of Christ" on August 10, 1848. Prior to that time it was known as the "Lutheran Church on the Prairie". On May 8, 1891, it was incorporated under the official name of "Holy Cross Congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession."

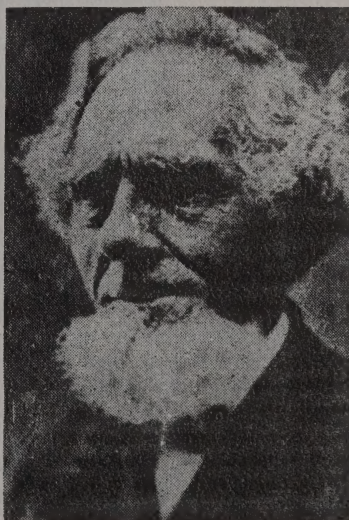
On October 8, 1856, the congregation adopted its third constitution. During the course of years it received several revisions. The constitution which is presently subscribed to by the members of the congregation and serves as the congregation's guide was adopted at a special voters meeting on December 15, 1953. Herein this congregation is simply designated as "Holy Cross Lutheran Church."

The first meeting on record was held on January 3, 1842. The following two voters meetings are indicated by minutes dated October 27, 1847 and January 19, 1848. Information concerning meetings held between 1842 and 1847 are no longer available. But the minutes of all subsequent meetings from the reorganization on August 10, 1848 until the present time are, with few exceptions, complete and well preserved. From 1848 regular meetings were held only once a year and a few special meetings

PASTOR EMIL JULIUS
MORITZ WEGE -

Born January 28, 1801

Died: July 3, 1870.



The Rev. Wege was shepherd to this congregation for thirteen years. He arrived during November of 1842. He left this congregation by virtue of a call to Stringtown, Missouri. He preached his farewell sermon here on the second Sunday in Advent, December 9, 1855. However, he continued to serve the congregation during the vacancy until his successor, Pastor Hahn arrived.

when necessary. All meetings were usually held on week days. From August 1857 regular meetings were held on the first Wednesday of each quarter year. During the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, only a few meetings were held; things necessary were resolved on Sundays after the services. At present one annual and three quarterly meetings are held at the beginning of each quarter year. Special meetings are called whenever necessity demands them.

In February of 1963, Holy Cross and Mt. Hulda joined together in a dual parish. This was accomplished out of necessity, due to the shortage of pastors. The congregations function as individual legal entities in all cases except as related to the pastor in which cases both parishes meet and render their decisions. This arrangement has been very successful. The pastor resides in Cole Camp.

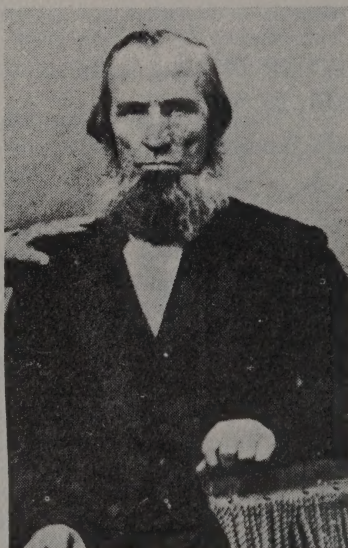
Support

"And this they did not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord" 2 Cor. 8:5.

By resolution initiated in 1842 every family joining the congre-

PASTOR JOHN MICHAEL HAHN
Born: May 17, 1821 - Died: Feb.
4, 1901

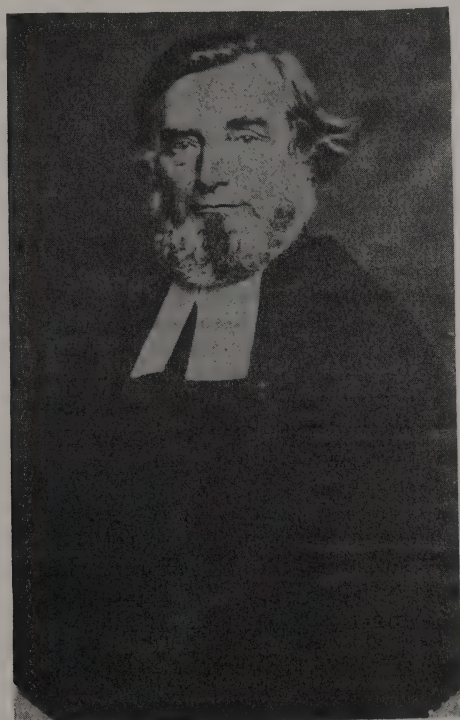
The second called Pastor, the Rev. Hahn served the congregation for fifteen consecutive years. Rev. Hahn was one of the Pastors sent out from Germany by Pastor Loehe to relieve the shortage of Lutheran ministers in America. He arrived here in July, 1856 and was installed by Pastor Wege on the twelfth Sunday after Trinity. He left from here in June of 1871 for Staunton, Illinois, from which area he received the call.



gation had to pay two dollars a year dues and stipulated fees for special pastoral services. These were used to defray the pastor's salary and other church expenses. School expenses and teachers' salaries were paid with the tuition money charged for each pupil in school. Larger expenses were either assessed equally against each member or liquidated by free will offering. On November 24, 1856, the congregation decided that the pastor's and teacher's salaries should be raised by free will offerings.

PASTOR HENRY FREDERICK
BREMER -

Born: February 5, 1840
Died: April 6, 1880



The Rev. Bremer, the third called pastor of this congregation was installed here on February 11, 1872 by Pastor Theodor Miessler. Due to his failing health he resigned from the active ministry on September 7, 1877, but he remained a member here until his death. The inscription on this faithful Shepherd's tombstone which is in Holy Cross cemetery reads (translated into English): "he conducted the ministry in the local congregation for five years, six months, in physical weakness and true faithfulness."

Two or more collectors were elected to go from home to home for that purpose. They frequently did this on horse-back. Other expenses were either collected in the same manner or through special collections in the church services. Beginning in January of 1869, offerings were received during the Divine service on the first Sunday of each month for the congregation's secretary. These were later designated for Synodical purposes and collections for the congregation were taken on the other Sundays. This continued until 1951.

In 1951 the envelope system was adopted for the purpose of receiving the offerings of the congregation's members. Through this means, the offerings of the members are received by ushers and placed into the congregation's treasury. The offering from holidays and mission festivals is designated for Synodical work. The remainder is utilized to alleviate the immediate needs of the congregation. Special offerings may be received as the need arises.

From the very beginning the congregation also established a work list and every member was expected to work an equal number of days on necessary labor at church and school. This system is still retained. It has saved the congregation much cost of labor and in general not only proved to be a satisfactory arrangement, but helped to stimulate interest in church and school.

Synodical Affiliation

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the land of Peace"
Eph. 4:3

The all-out battle for the loyalty and support of the German immigrant waged by a virile church of the frontier, the Methodists, induced the forces of the German Lutheran Conservationists to close their ranks. Additionally, the very nature of a lone-

PASTOR O. SPEHR
No record of birth and death

Pastor Spehr served this congregation for only three years. He arrived here in January, 1879, from St. Paul, Minnesota, to fill the vacancy which had existed in this congregation for one year and four months. Pastor Spehr was installed on the third Sunday after Epiphany by the Rev. C. Toenjes. After receiving a call from Appleton, Missouri, he left here in the early part of December, 1881. His ministry here may be described as brief but eventful.

some frontier life - the physical isolation - suggested an organization in which like-minded spirits could discuss their common problems sympathetically and carry out joint actions zealously and energetically. The first meetings of persons interested in Synodical formation began in Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 13-18, 1845, and finally led to the Synodical structure of decentralized authority in April, 1847, in Chicago, Illinois.

In August, 1848, the present Holy Cross congregation twice voted its desire to join the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. But this did not materialize at that time because the congregation did not find itself financially able to send the required delegates to the Synodical Conventions. Then in 1855 the congregation again decided to affiliate with Synod, and in the Convention of Synod, duly assembled in October, 1857, Holy Cross was admitted into membership. Contributions to Synod's objectives and work were made as early as 1850 and have continued liberally in various ways since that time.

In October, 1893, the congregation was host to the Pastoral Conference of the Western District of the Missouri Synod, of which it was a member.

The Western District as such no longer exists since the Western District, duly assembled June 13-17, 1966, divided itself into two districts: The Mid-South and the Missouri District. Holy Cross is now a member of the Missouri District.

PASTOR FREDERICK AUGUST
WILLIAM HEYNE

Born: June 5, 1860

Pastor Heyne served Holy Cross approximately eight years. He came here as a candidate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in September, 1882, and was installed on the seventeenth Sunday after Trinity. The Rev. C. Guenther was the installing official. Pastor Heyne left here in March, 1890 to shepherd a flock in New Orleans, Louisiana. Later he became the President of the Central Illinois District.



An item of interest relates: in the fall of 1867 the congregational members brought wheat together, sold it, and remitted proceeds to Synod for the purpose of building an addition to Synod's Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

Dr. C. F. W. Walther

Holy Cross congregation had the privilege of seeing Dr. Walther, the first President of the Missouri Synod and then in office in that capacity and also President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis upon two occasions. He was present here in a voter's meeting on May 31, 1871 and then again for five successive meetings held from July 20th to July 22nd in the year of 1880.

Graduates of Theology

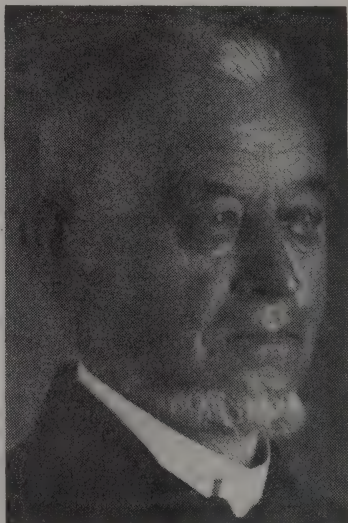
"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things." Rom. 10:15.

Young men and women originating from our congregation who studied at Synod's Theological Seminaries and Normal Schools

PASTOR FREDERICK WILLIAM
GOTTHILF MATUSCHKA

Born: July 9, 1838
Died: March 4, 1918

The Rev. Matuschka served the Lord faithfully in this congregation for twenty-eight years. He arrived here from New Melle, Missouri, and was installed by Pastor Theodore Buszin on the first Sunday after Trinity. He remained as pastor of this congregation until his death and was interred in the church cemetery. He is still held in fond remembrance by those whom he baptized, confirmed and united in marriage.



who became pastors or teachers of Synod's congregations are as follows:

Pastors -- Henry Bethke, Alvin Braebner, Oswald Braebner, George Harms, Arnold Heimsoth, Norman Heimsoth, Oscar Heimsoth, John Holtzen, George Jagels, Otto Jagels, Richard Jagels, Rudolf Koehnken, Otto Matuschka, Paul Matuschka, Arthur Meyer, John Meyer, Martin Mueller, Peter Mueller, William Mueller, Arthur Schroeder, Edgar Schroeder, Adolf Traugott, John Viets, and Francis Gerken.

Teachers -- Henry Brase, Louis Harms, Gustav Holtzen, Erwin Heimsoth, Victor Kalbfleisch, Edwin Mueller, Otto Schnakenberg, Herman Schroeder, Emil Traugott, Hugo Viets, Wilbert Zimmerschied, Miss Melva Meyer and Miss Lillie Stelling.

Mission Festival

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mk. 16:15

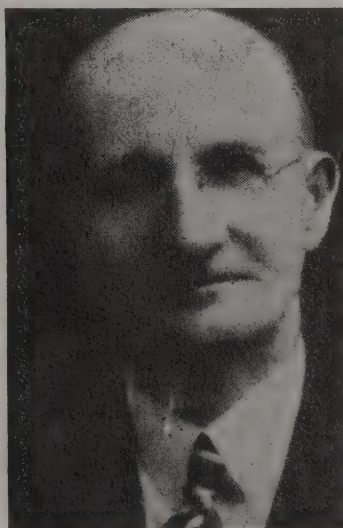
This congregation's first mission festival celebration was on the last Sunday and Monday in August of 1866. For this occasion congregations from as far away as Concordia were invited, with which this congregation then alternated in celebrating these festivals.

PASTOR MARTIN WILLIAM POTT

Born: February 28, 1873

Died: March 8, 1942

The Rev. Pott served at Holy Cross Congregation for eight years. He arrived in May of 1918 and was duly installed on Pentecost Day by the Rev. Karl Niermann. He accepted a call to Altamont, Illinois, and left here in August, 1926.



There are hardly any records of the speakers for these two day festivals. But of primary interest at this time are the records that speak of the preparations required to celebrate the Mission Festivals. We may read that in 1873 the congregation determined that every family being able to do so should bring twenty pounds of flour. Flour in excess of 800 pounds should be exchanged for coffee, sugar, etc. Eight locations were designated at which the women were to bake bread for the festival. Two dollars worth of coffee was to be brought for each baking location. Two men were elected to collect for the expense of the festival and to supervise the collection at the mission festival. All members were to help in preparing the festival grounds on the Friday before. Those able to do so were to bring a load of planks. Two hundred and fifty cups were to be borrowed from a neighboring store. Later these mission festivals were localized with less extensive preparation.

In 1892 it was decided to have two mission festivals a year. This developed into an interchange of mission festivals with the Cheese Creek congregation which celebrated in the fall of the year and Holy Cross in the spring of the year.

The Rev. Schroeder served as pastor of Holy Cross Congregation for nineteen years. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, on June 8, 1922. Pastor Schroeder arrived here from Mart, Texas in October of 1926. He was installed on November 7, 1926, by Pastor Arthur Kuecker. "And I, brethren, when I came to you...I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2: 1,2.

Rev. Walter Schroeder received a call from Riceville, Iowa. The Holy Spirit guided him to accept this call and he left here in 1945, after many years of faithful service to the Lord and to the charge placed to him. Rev. Walter C.O. Schroeder is still serving in Riceville, Iowa.

PASTOR WALTER CARL
OTTO SCHROEDER

Born: May 18, 1898



In 1919 this congregation decided to participate with the other congregations in and around Cole Camp in a general mission festival. The celebration with the Cheese Creek congregation was then discontinued as was the general mission festival.

The congregation now celebrates its own local mission festival on its own twice a year; the last Sunday in June and again on the second Sunday in October.

Christmas Eve

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

The first recorded celebration of the birth of the Christ Child with a program by the school children was held at 5:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve of 1872. From that time forward the Christmas Eve celebration has been observed annually and is looked forward to with eager anticipation by both young and old.

PASTOR ERNEST G. BULTMAN

Born: August 20, 1883
Died: September 28, 1961

The Rev. Bultman graduated from the Springfield, Illinois Seminary in 1907. He served in Pocahtontas, Missouri for six years and then in Jefferson City, Missouri for thirty-three years. From there he came to Lake Creek, Holy Cross, in 1946. He served here faithfully for three years until Ascension Day of 1949 at which time he became ill. That same year he moved to Jefferson City and lived there in retirement for twelve years. The Lord called him home on Sept. 28, 1961.



Memorial Day

"Death is swallowed up in victory...through our Lord Jesus Christ". I Cor. 15:54.

The observance of Memorial Day by the congregation dates back to May 30, 1915. The congregation then and in many following years assembled on the cemetery to clean up its burial place and to decorate the graves. In connection with this a brief worship service was conducted. During the period leading up to the middle 1940's the memorial services were held in the cemetery, but on the Sunday morning closest to May 30th. Prior to this service the graves of the departed were put in order.

Although a voter's assembly resolution dated April 8, 1956 declared that Memorial Day Services are to be in the church, i.e., not in the cemetery; nevertheless the memories of those living reflect on all the loved ones who during the past one hundred and twenty-five years became Christians and remained faithful to their Savior Jesus Christ unto death by God's grace imparted through His Word and Sacraments which they received in the churches and schools of Holy Cross Congregation. They were then committed to their last earthly resting place in the blessed hope of the glorious resurrection unto eternal life, purchased for them by the one Savior of mankind, Christ the Lord!

***** ~*****

Born: June 11, 1885
Died: July 9, 1962

PASTOR JOHN HERMAN
DEYE

The Rev. John Deye arrived here from Immanuel of Knob Noster, Missouri and was installed Aug. 12, 1951. He remained as pastor of the congregation for five years and then retired after forty-seven years in the ministry. After retiring from Holy Cross, he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, and served as assistant pastor of St. Peter's Congregation for six more years. He was called home suddenly on July 9, 1962, and interred at Glen Edon Memorial Park, Livonia, Michigan.



Cemetery

The location of the first burial place for this congregation is located about 1/2 mile southwest of the present cemetery. This is presently obscured by a small grove of cedars. In this location is the tomb of Cord Meyer, the oldest identifiable tombstone, dated September 14, 1843.

The present cemetery of the congregation was first used in 1848. Here the oldest identifiable tomb is that of Tibke Meyer dated November 28, 1850.

There are several Pastors whose mortal remains repose in our present cemetery.

There are also numerous unidentifiable graves in the cemetery.

Since conflict and cemeteries have a close relationship, it is in order to comment at this time that during the Civil War members joined the United States Home Guard. While the home guard was assembled in its camp several miles east of Cole Camp on June 19, 1861, it was attacked by a troupe of Confederate soldiers. John Dormann, Claus Becker and John Blanken of this congregation fell in battle. Henry Bronkhorst, Carl Noack, Henry Schroeder, and Cord Meyer were wounded and died a few days later. These were given Christian burial in the congregation's cemetery.

The Rev. Albert J. F. Meier graduated from the Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, September 19, 1920. His first call was to Christ Lutheran Church, Loraine, Texas. He served at numerous other congregations before coming to Holy Cross from Trinity and St. John's of Dayton and Dana, Iowa, respectively. Pastor Meier arrived here in May of 1957 and served Holy Cross until he retired on the last Sunday of October in 1961. Rev. Meier is still active at St. Paul's of Des Peres and Emmaus of St. Louis, where he visits the sick and shut-ins and officiates in church activities.

PASTOR ALBERT
J. F. MEIER

Born: December 27, 1894



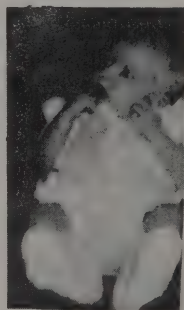
Since the Civil War the young men of the congregation have continued to answer the call of their country. Otto Granneman died in battle in World War I. Then in World War II Hilmer Gieschen and Elmer Ehlers gave their lives. At the present time there are three young men in the Armed Services who are members of this congregation. They are Larry Harms, Stanley Mueller, and Lester Zimmerschied.

The First Pastorate

The character of a congregation is largely the result of the type of its ministry. By the grace of God, Holy Cross Congregation is to a great extent today a distinctively Lutheran congregation because of its first pastor. The efforts of the newly-organized congregation to obtain an educated and ordained preacher of the Gospel were successful. It received its first pastor in the person of E. J. M. Wege, one of the candidates of Theology who came to Perry County, Missouri, with the Saxon immigrants in 1839. He arrived in the congregation via Booneville, Missouri, shortly before Dec. 4, 1842, on which day he performed his first official acts recorded: four baptisms in the settlement. The manner in which the congregation received knowledge of or contacted Pastor Wege is no longer known; but undoubtedly it was through contacts which some of the inhabitants here had with the Saxon Lutherans living in St. Louis, Missouri. Since Pastor Wege left Saxony for his convictions in the Lutheran faith, he desired nothing more than to conduct his office according to Lutheran doctrine and practice and to build here a truly Lutheran congregation.

Upon this foundation laid by Christ through Pastor Wege this congregation stands today. "Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Eph. 2:20.

The first official acts of the
present Pastor:
BAPTISM: Rox Ann Meyer - Oct-
ober 31, 1965.



CONFIRMATION: Ruth A. Holtzen and Gary M. Miesner - April 3, 1966.



MARRIAGE: Mr. Eugene Karman and Miss Ellen E. Jagels - June 5, 1966.



Men's Club

"Let us not weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9.

The Men's Club was not organized until the early 1950's. Although always small in numbers it has been very active in the past. For a number of years it sponsored an "Acres for Christ" project, with the funds realized from this being used for various charitable agencies and also various projects within the congregation. It affiliated with the Lutheran Laymen's League soon after its organization.

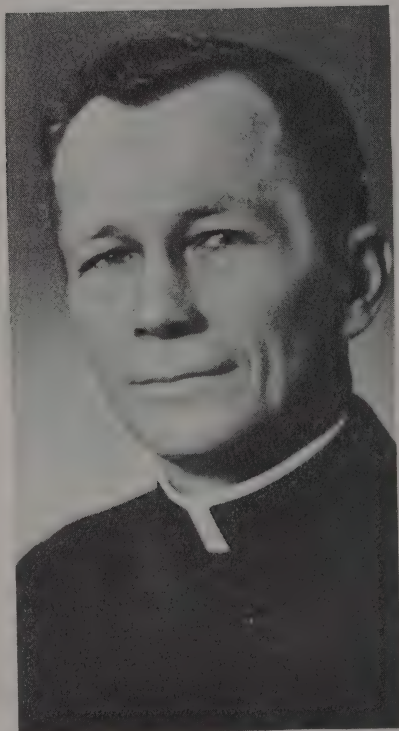
Through the years the Men's Club has always sponsored a Dart Ball team in competition with other LLL teams within the Sedalia zone. During this time it won the Zone Championship at various times, including the last two years.

Due to declining membership, the club felt constrained to go

PASTOR WILLIAM F. SCHULTZ

Born: July 14, 1922

Pastor Schultz completed his academics at the Springfield Seminary of the Missouri Synod in May of 1965. He was installed as a vicar for the Holy Cross and Mt. Hulda Dual Parish on July 11, 1965. He completed his vicarage in eight months and was ordained at Holy Cross and installed as the first Pastor of the Dual Parish on March 6, 1966. In this capacity he is presently serving as Christ's undershepherd to the two congregations.



on an inactive status a year ago. The final act of the club was to use the funds on hand, and with some help from the Ladies Aid, have new carpeting installed in the chancel and aisles of the church in this anniversary year. This was the Men's Club's anniversary project.

The final officers serving were: Edwin Holtzen, President; Martin Harms, Vice-President; Eric Heimsoth, Secretary; Hubert Viets, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Mr. Hubert Viets continues as membership chairman for the LLL.

Choirs



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands...Come before His presence with singing". Psalms 100:1,2.

During the past 75 years or more many members have served in the choir of Holy Cross at various times, serving the congregation with their songs of the glory of God to His glory, serving to edify the worshippers. Unfortunately there are but few records of the past to let us know who served in the previous years. But the present choir and their leader acknowledge with gratitude the foundation laid by their predecessors.

The present choir as pictured above is carrying forward the Word of God in making melody with their hearts. It began to be organized in the spring of 1966.

The choir consists of a sextet of ladies who have been working together for quite some while and are capable of rendering most numbers in behalf of the congregation on short notice.

The remainder of the choir consists of men and women who are also capable singers who are willing to give to the service of the Lord of their musical time and talents.

Sunday School



"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Deut. 6:7.

Sunday School as we know it today was initiated in this congregation on Oct. 2, 1950. The first teachers were: Mrs. Hulda Meyer, Mrs. Emma Meyer, Miss Frieda Gross, Mrs. Olga Harms and Mrs. Rosa Jagels. Significantly we find two of the first group of teachers still feeding the lambs; Mrs. Olga Harms, who teaches Primary and Mrs. Rosa Jagels, who teaches Kindergarten. Other teachers are: Mrs. Pearl Heimsoth, Primary; Mr. Hubert Viets, Junior; Mrs. Arleen Miesner, Preteen; and Mrs. Ruby Heimsoth, Junior High. Substitute teachers are: Mrs. John Fadler, Mrs. Elfrieda Meyer and Mrs. William F. Schultz.

There is a total enrollment of 46 children in the Sunday morning classes. Mr. Edwin Holtzen has been the capable Superintendent for the last few years.

Their project for the 125th anniversary is to initiate a library for the church.

Ladies Aid

"And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus...ministering unto Him". Matt. 27:55.

The Ladies Aid Society was organized on January 3, 1923. It has at all times been very active, and has assisted the congregation in many ways. It has repeatedly made gifts to charitable organizations and to the congregation.



The Ladies Aid has sponsored the church bulletin since January of 1941.

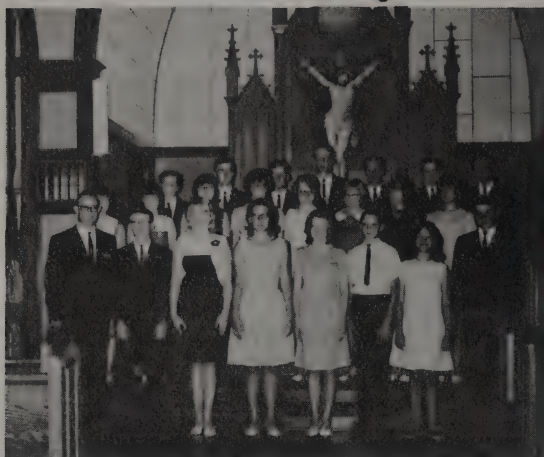
The Ladies Aid was given permission to join the L.W.M.L. by a voters resolution. Being members of the L.W.M.L. a mite box collection for missions is received four times a year. The Ladies Aid has been host to the L.W.M.L. Rally a number of times.

Past projects of the Ladies Aid have been: decorating the church basement, sponsoring annual clothing drives for world relief, denoting flowers for the altar on Palm Sunday and Christmas. The Ladies Aid, in conjunction with other congregational organizations, has assisted in purchasing new flags and two sets of altar paraments. The project of the Ladies Aid for the 125th anniversary celebration is to redecorate the chancel of the church in blue.

The present membership of the organization is twenty members. The meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday afternoon of each month.

The present officers are: Mrs. Johanna Meyer, President; Mrs. Harold Harms, Vice-President; Mrs. Andrew Harms, Secretary; Mrs. Melvin Heimsoth, Treasurer.

Walther League



"Let no one slight you because you are young, but make yourselves examples to believers (et al) in speech and behavior, in love, fidelity, and purity." I Tim. 4:12.

This organization, formerly known as the "Young People's Society", became a member of the Missouri Synod Walther League on June 5, 1949. At this time our League joined the Lake of the Ozarks Walther League Zone which consists of Leagues from neighboring congregations in this area known as the Sedalia Circuit.

The primary purpose of the Walther League is to let the young people become involved in church work and to continue to grow in Christ through the hearing and studying of the Word of God.

Each year the newly-confirmed young people are invited to join the Walther League and the response has been very good throughout the last several years. All of the young people in our church of high school age are members of the Walther League.

The meetings of our Walther League are held on the first and third Wednesday night of each month. The first meeting of the month is for Bible study and business meeting. The other meeting is a social gathering where we play games and have refreshments. In order to acquire funds to help support the District Walther League and other church functions, the Walther League has an ice cream social on our church lawn annually which usually draws a large crowd. Our Walther League has also had several bake sales and car washes and this summer have taken over the chore of cutting the grass on the church lawn and cemetery. The Leaguers working together with Teacher Fadler and Pastor Schultz on these projects has proven to be very successful.

The Walther League group also constitutes the young adult Bible Class with Teacher John Fadler as their instructor. At present there are 34 members in our Walther League. The officers are: Ronnie Viets, President; Ethel Hobein, Vice-President; Mildred Holtzen, Secretary; Marilyn Jagels, Treasurer; Gary Miesner, Christian Growth Chairman; Mary Lou Bockelman, Wheat Ridge Seals Chairman; James Vajen, Membership Secretary.

Young Couple's Club



Members of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Young Couples Club are, left to right (wife standing in front of husband)-Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stoermer, Teacher and Mrs. Fadler, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Simon, Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Bahrenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Stoermer, Mrs. Arthur Hagen (Mr. Hagen took the photo), Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Brandes, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Ehlers and Rev. and Mrs. Schultz. The children are grouped in front.

"Let all things be done decently and in order". I Cor. 14:40.

The Holy Cross Young Couple's Club was organized in October of 1960. At that time ten couples enrolled as members. Since that initial organization seven years ago, thirteen couples have been active. At the present the membership consists of ten active couples with twenty active children. Monthly meetings include devotions, Bible study, business and social fellowship. Two couples are in charge of the social each month.

The purposes of this organization are: to help each member grow in his life of personal and public life with Christ the Savior, through the Holy Spirit; to assist the members in relating their lives to the will of God at church, at home, and in public contact in the community whether at work or at play; to encourage the fellowship of all couples and families; to encourage all newly married or engaged couples to attend and to participate in our meetings; to give service to the congregation in every means available under the supervision of the Voter's assembly and the Pastor; and give service to the Church and mankind at home and abroad. The Altar Guild is an integral component of the Young Couples Club. The club also acts as welcoming group to new members.

The project for the 125th anniversary was the purchasing and installation of a much needed hot water heater for the kitchen in the church basement.

The officers at present are: Mr. Cleo Bahrenburg, President; Mrs. Jessie Hagen, Vice-President; Mrs. Wilma Bahrenburg, Treasurer; Mrs. Jessie Hagen, Directress for the Altar Guild.

The First Church

"Thy word is true from the beginning; And everyone of thy righteous judgments endureth forever." Psalms 119:160.

From the information available according to a copy of a record placed in the corner stone of the former Immanuel Lutheran church near Cole Camp, the first church was build of logs. This was erected in 1840, or a short time thereafter "on the middle of Section 11, Township 43, Range 20, on the woody ridge of a hill between Haw Creek and Lake Creek." The description of this church, given by persons who saw the church and attended its school during their childhood was: "It was a building approximately twenty feet square. The south roof extended to form a porch. The door was on the south and a window on both the east end and the west end." In later years a window was placed on the north side. From 1858 to 1867 the building was used for a school. The church pews were converted into school benches and blackboards. The pulpit and altar were presented to a church served by the neighboring Pastor Johannes.

The Second Church

"Enter into his courts with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise." Psalms 100:4.

This church with a steeple was built a short distance east of the church's cemetery. The dimensions were forty-five feet in length, twenty-six feet in width and a height of fifteen feet. A resolution to build a new and larger church to accommodate the growing membership had already been adopted in 1853; but due to the prevailing unrest which followed, it was not complied with until after October 8, 1856 at which time the decision to build was repeated.

The rough lumber used for building was supplied by the members. Flooring, doors, windows, and shingles were brought by wagon from Boonville. The weather boards were of walnut. This House of God was dedicated to His glory on the ninth Sunday after Trinity in the year of 1858. Records indicate that the speakers were the Rev. Wege, the Rev. Johannes, and one pastor from Lafayette County. The congregations in this neighborhood and from Concordia were invited. Meals were served to the guests for which purpose the congregation purchased one hundred pounds of flour, two dollars worth of coffee and the necessary sugar. Later, in 1872, a balcony was built into the church and in October of 1877 a bell was placed in the steeple. Not too long after this reed organs were acquired to accompany the singing, but these proved inadequate. Then in 1883 a pipe organ was purchased and installed. Five years later the congregation constructed its third church and consequently sold the second one to the highest bidder. This transpired in 1888.

The Third Church

"I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy." Psalms 27:6.

The early forefathers had built their homes in the forests where wood and water were in abundance, but in the course of time the population shift was westward into the prairie. Consequently the churches' property was no longer centrally located in regard to its membership. This entailed considerable travel for many of its members. As a result, in 1884 it was determined to have confirmation instruction in a room of Dr. Henry Holtzen's office. The following year a committee of six was elected to attempt to locate a more centrally located site for a new church. This committee presented two locations for consideration: one on the Dietrich Mueller farm and the other adjoining Dr. Holtzen's property on the east. The latter, which is the present church property and is two miles west of what was the church property at that time, was chosen after long deliberation. The property was then purchased from Mr. Cord Holtzen. Members elected to serve on the building committee were: Mr. Dietrich Mueller, Mr. Claus Viets, Mr. John H. Holtzen, Mr. George Weymuth, Mr. Anton Ehlers, Mr. August Granneman and Mr. Cord Gieschen. The Rev. Frederick Heyne, pastor, was elected honorary member.



The church was built facing to the south in accordance with plans submitted by Pastor Proft of Springtown, Missouri. The building was seventy feet in length, forty feet in width, walls twenty feet into the sky. Due to the difficulty in painting such a tall steeple it was lowered in later years.

A confirmation room and vestry combination was added on the north end. This room was fourteen by twenty feet. A balcony was built into the rear and on both sides on the church. The organ and the bell from the old church were used. The altar, pulpit and baptismal font were made by Pastor Proft. The called pastor of the congregation, Rev. William Heyne, preached for the corner-stone laying in the summer of 1887. The dedication of the church took place on October 23, 1887. The farewell sermon in the old church was preached by the Rev. W. Heyne. From there the congregation proceeded to the new church. President Biltz of Concordia and Pastor Proft of Springtown, respectively preached the two dedicatory sermons. This House of God served the congregation until 1936. During these years the congregation witnessed the largest membership and many were the souls that were therein admonished and comforted on the way to salvation through Jesus Christ, the Savior of all.

The Present Church



"Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house and the place where thine honor dwelleth." Psalms 26:8.

During the evening of September 1, 1936, lightning struck the third house of worship and within the hour it was completely consumed by fire. This was a hard blow for the members who had also been heavily hit by the depression of the preceeding years.

The congregation now worshipped in their school. But the gracious Lord made the hearts of the members willing to sacrifice anew and build another church. Mr. George Bockelman, Mr. Henry Gerken, Mr. John Grother, Mr. Emil Schnakenberg, and Mr. Fritz Schroeder with the pastor as an advisory member were elected to the church building committee.

The corner stone of the present edifice was laid on May 30, 1937. Pastor H. M. Schreiner of Stover, Mo. delivered the address. Beginning from May 30, 1937, the congregation conducted worship services in the basement of the church until it was completed. Dedication of the present church took place on Reformation Day, Oct. 31, 1957. Former Pastor William Heyne and Pastor Oswald Graebner of Grand Island, Nebraska, were the speakers. A total of fourteen hundred people were estimated to have attended the two services of that day.

The present church is sixty-six feet in length, thirty-six feet in width, the walls are sixteen feet in height, and the church steeple is approximately seventy feet in height. The seating capacity is three hundred, but many more can be accommodated. Most of the building was done by Mr. John Grother, Mr. Joseph Jagels and Mr. Fritz Schroeder. Other members also helped faithfully with the labor and contributed liberally to the building. The walls and ceiling are covered with celotex. The chancel furniture was designed by the Pastor and Mr. John Grother, and made by the latter. Native oak was used. A number of articles were given by individual members and societies of the church. A bell was purchased immediately, and the organ was purchased and dedicated in the summer of 1938. Since that time the basement has been refinished and is used as a parish hall.

Now may the Lord continue to hold His protecting hand over our house of worship in order that the members of Holy Cross may retain it for many, many more years as they have held it throughout the past thirty years. May it always be His House wherein His honor dwells and where He addresses His people through His called servants and ambassadors for their temporal and eternal welfare!

The First Christian Day School

The date when the first school was initially opened is not known at the present, but all indications point to the fall of 1842. The minutes of the Jan. 30, 1842 congregational meeting stated that there was a desire for an English and German school. The regulations of the congregation at that time stated that "the parents

are to pay tuition for their children". The regulations also stated that school was to be held "throughout the whole year except during the months of sowing and harvesting". The school terms were known as Winter and Summer School and conducted at least until 1873. At first Winter School was held five days a week for nine months and Summer School three or four days a week. In 1870 it was decided that Winter School should be from October to Easter and Summer School from Easter to October. In 1874 the congregation decided on a summer vacation of one month, which was gradually lengthened. The school term of our Lutheran School Association presently conforms to the term of the public school.



The early settlers had in mind the type of school in which their children would receive instruction and training in the fundamentals of the Christian religion and a knowledge of all secular subjects equivalent to that being taught in the schools of the state. Then, as now, the goal of Christian parents as members of the congregation was to bring up their children as intelligent members of the church and God-fearing loyal citizens who are an asset to this beloved country in which we live.

At the beginning the first church was stated to have been used also as a school. From 1858 to 1867 it was the only building used for school purposes. But in the fall of 1867 a new school 40 by 20 feet and sufficient for accomodating 130 pupils was completed. This was then divided into two rooms, one 24 feet square and the other one 16 x 24 feet, by means of sliding doors. The partition was removed in 1872 and in 1874 a hall was built into the west end. The building was used until 1896.

The first teacher mentioned was Mr. Henry Schroeder, a member of the congregation. He taught until his death in 1861.

The next teacher was Mr. Bunge who taught from 1861 until May 3, 1863 when he resigned.

The school was divided into upper and lower grades on July 10, 1864. The lower grades had Mr. Jost Meyer, a congregational member as teacher until 1874. Since he could teach only part time in later years, Student Ohm taught in the winter of 1870-71, Mr. Herman Schnakenberg in 1872-73, and Teacher Christian Kraus from 1873 on. From 1865 to 1871 Teacher John Herman taught the upper grades and was followed by Teacher L. Knocke from 1872 to 1874.

In the late Sixties the membership in the prairie west of Lake Creek increased and on May 31, 1871, the congregation determined that school should be held there. Student Ohm had already conducted classes on the H. Grother farm the previous winter. This school was then continued there by Mr. Schnakenberg, Mr. Meyer and Teacher Kraus. In 1874 the congregation purchased some land from Mr. Cord Holtzen, two miles west of the present church property. The school called the Lake Creek School was built on this property the same year. Teacher Kraus was given a permanent call to this school on January 6, 1875, where he taught until death overtook him on January 18, 1885. Student Boritzke finished that school term. Teacher W. L. Graebner, then taught from 1885 until 1880; being followed by Teacher C.E. Krueger from 1890 to 1902, and Teacher R. Kalbfleisch from January 1903 to 1950.

In the other school, called the school at the church or the Haw Creek School, Teacher Knocke was succeeded by the following teachers: W. R. Krenning, 1874 to 1877; August Charle, 1878 to 1881; W. H. C. Pflug 1881 to 1886; H. Barr, 1887 to 1890; George W. Noltinz, 1892 to 1904; Fr. A. C. von Niebelschuetz, 1906 to 1910; Julius Kaiser, 1911 to 1917; A. P. Wolters, 1917 to 1920; and Erich W. O. Rotermund, 1921 to December, 1925. During vacancies pastors and various members also taught. Among these were the following: Mr. Anton Ehlers, 1878; Miss Martha Matuschka, 1890-92; Teacher Richter, 1905; Miss Frieda Gross, 1905 to 1906; and Student Otto Schnakenberg, 1921. In 1896 a new school was built called the Haw Creek School.

Initially the congregation retained direct supervision over both schools as in prior years, but this was not efficient enough. On March 16, 1881 two schools districts were created by the congregation, each independent of the other in regards to the upkeep of the schools and calling and support of the teachers. These were defined as the Haw Creek and Lake Creek School district respectively.

In 1926 another chapter began for our Christian Day School. The number of children in the congregation had decreased to such a degree that the congregation during the vacancy at Haw Creek, again united its two schools into one. On April 18, 1926, Teacher R. Kalbfleisch of the Lake Creek School was called as teacher of the one school. The house and property of Mrs. Adelheid Holt-

zen, adjoining the church property on the west was purchased during the summer of 1926, and the last school individually owned by the congregation was built thereon under the supervision of the building committee constituted of the following: Mr. Herman Beckman, Mr. Henry Gerken, Mr. John Gieschen, Mr. Henry Hesse and Mr. Henry Schnakenberg. The dedication took place on September 12, 1926. Speakers were Pastor Herman H. Heidebreder of Sedalia and the School Superintendent of the Western District, Teacher Theodore Kuehnert. This school building was used uninterruptedly until 1950. Teacher Kalbfleisch taught there until that time when he retired.

Then in 1950 due to a shortage of teachers and the decreasing number of children the school was temporarily discontinued.

However, in the fall of 1959 the school was re-opened when the congregation secured the service of a new teacher, one Mr. John Fadler of Perryville, Missouri, who that year had graduated from our Synodical system college in Seward, Nebraska. At this time the congregation also erected a new teacherage next to the school.

Even at this time there was a movement afoot to join in with several of the neighboring congregations to form a central school which would be located in Cole Camp. Two years later this became a reality when Holy Cross congregation joined hands with St. John's, located eight miles west and Trinity of Cole Camp to form the Lutheran School Association. The first three quarters of the 1961-1962 school term, the fifth and sixth grades, with Mr Fadler teaching, held their classes in Trinity's church basement. This situation was alleviated by the building of two class rooms as an addition to Trinity's then existing school. This was completed and in use by March of 1962.

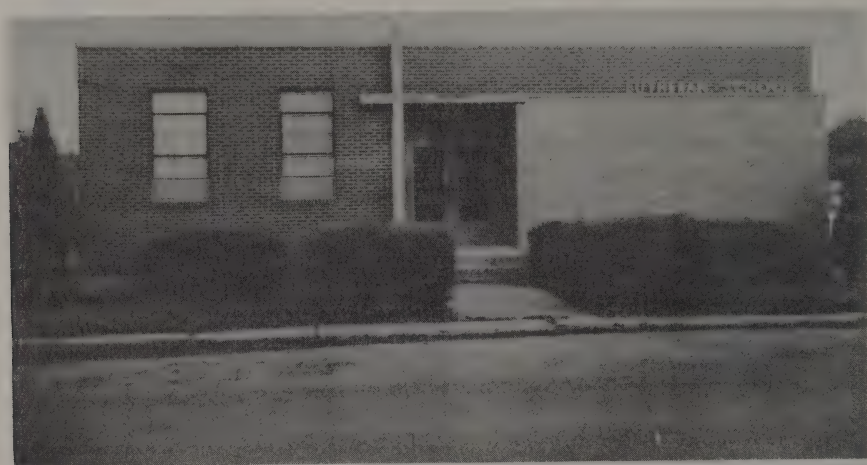


LAKE CREEK SCHOOL 1960-'61



JOHN FADLER

At the present time, during this one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary year, the school is staffed as follows: Mr. Leonard Schnell, Principal and teaching grades seven and eight; Mr. John Fadler teaching grades five and six. Grades three and four experienced a variety! The year began with Mrs. Cecil Harms, who discontinued because the Lord blessed the family with a child. Miss Gayle Jones finished the 1966-1967 school term but did not renew her contract because she desired to continue her studies in music. All this time Mrs. Ruby Heimsoth served as substitute teacher. The 1967-1968 school term will begin with Mrs. Leonard Heisterberg teaching grades 3 and 4. Mrs. Clarence Hesse will teach grades 1 and 2. Pastor Kraut, Pastor Moose, and Pastor Schultz will teach the Confirmation instructions to the 8th graders.



The Lutheran School Association has the affairs administered by a Board of Directors consisting of elected members from each of the three participating congregations and the called pastor of each congregation.

At the beginning of the anniversary year Holy Cross sold its last privately owned school building on the basis of bids received, thus leaving the Lutheran School Association building as the only school in which Holy Cross has an interest.

Appendix

The Lord built the Church and men have built a church at Lake Creek in which the Cross of Christ with its salvation in all of its glory has been held before the eyes of His people in its full significance by His ambassadors from the very beginning. Satan has attacked her "As a roaring lion" seeking to dismember her, but by the grace of her Head she has repulsed all assaults and remained in God's Word and the pure doctrine for the past one

hundred and twenty-five years.

At various times she has taken recognition of this undeserved mercy of the Lord by the celebration of anniversaries.

The fiftieth anniversary of the congregation was celebrated on September 25, 1892. One of the speakers was the former Pastor Hahn. There is no record of the other speakers.

The seventieth anniversary of the congregation and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the third church were celebrated on November 3, 1912. Former pastor Heyne and Pastor Brust of Concordia, Missouri were the festival speakers.

The ninetieth anniversary of the congregation and the forty-fifth anniversary of the third church were celebrated on October 30, 1932. Speakers were the Reverend John Viets of Concordia, Missouri and the local Pastor W. Schroeder.

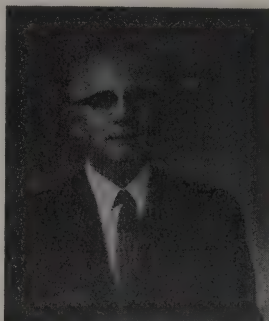
In the year nineteen hundred and forty-two the congregation observed its one hundredth anniversary of organization and the beginning of its school. Beginning in May of that year special commemorative services were held on the first Sunday of each month by the congregation's Pastor. These were concluded in October of that year. On July 26th of that year a Centennial Thank Offering was taken. The September sixth service was set aside as the chief anniversary service. At that time there was a festival service with Holy Communion in the morning service, with Pastor George Harms of Willow Springs as the speaker. For the afternoon service Pastor Arthur Meyer of St. Louis was the speaker. Teacher Otto Schnakenberg of Arlington, Nebraska served as the organist.

In the year of nineteen hundred and sixty-seven the congregation is celebrating one hundred and twenty-five years under God's grace, love and mercy. The second Sunday of July, the second Sunday of August, the first Sunday of September and the second Sunday of October have been set aside for festival observation. The first service was preached by the Pastor of the congregation. The second service was preached by the Rev. Albert J. F. Meier. The third anniversary service is to be preached by the Rev. Professor Dr. Martin Nauman of Springfield Concordia Theological Seminary. The 10:45 A.M. service will be in German and the 2:30 P.M. service in the English language. The fourth and last service will be preached by the Rev. Walter Schroeder and the Rev. Norman Heimsoth. Rev. Walter Schroeder, a former pastor of the congregation will have the morning service at 10:45 A.M. and the Rev. Norman Heimsoth, a son of the congregation, will preach the 2:30 P.M. service. The offering from the first service was designated for the Ebenezer Thanks-offering, the offering from the second Festival service was designated for the Armed Services Commission. The offering from the third Festival ser-

vice was again designated for the Ebenezer Thanksoffering and the offering from the last Festival service is to be sent to the Springfield Theological Seminary "Student Aid Fund".



Prof. M. T. Naumann D.D.



Rev. Norman Heimsoth

And now as we conclude this resume of the Holy Cross Congregation's past one hundred and twenty-five years in the sight of Him to whom "a thousand years are but as yesterday when they are past" we dedicate ourselves to "sing of the mercies of the Lord forever and make known His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalms 89:1) knowing that God, He is the Lord of all.

Baptisms to date - 1770
First Recorded Baptism -

Katherine L. Weymuth
Date: December 4, 1842

Confirmations to date - 973

Marriages to date - 391
First Recorded Marriage -

Mr. Diedrick Black
Miss Gescke Mahnken
Date: January 1, 1843

Burials to date - 694
First Recorded Burial -

Meta Windler
February 3, 1843

125th Anniversary Year Firsts

Confirmation
(Children)

Bernice Meyer - May 14, 1967
Bobby Busing
Glenn E. Mueller



Baptism - Gayla June Holtzen - July 9, 1967



Confirmation
(Adult)
Mr. Robert Walker
May 14, 1967



Marriage -

Mr. C. Wayne Karmen
Miss Ruth Ann Viets - February 4, 1967



Memorials Given To Date

NEW PICTURE FOR ALTAR: Given by Edwin Schnakenberg in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Schnakenberg.

MISSAL STAND: By Mr. and Mrs. Albert Miesner and Mr. and Mrs. Milburn Miesner.

SANCTUARY LAMP: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Miller, and Mrs. Rosa Jagels.

CANDELABRA: Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Viets

OUTSIDE BULLETIN BOARD: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Holtzen in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf H. Holtzen.

NEW CARPETING: Men's Club and Ladies Aid.

ALTAR PARAMENTS: Members of H.D. Heimsoth Family in memory of parents.

PULPIT LIGHT: Miss Malinda Viets

NEW WATER HEATER: Young Couples Club.

GUEST REGISTER BOOK: Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Ehlers.

VACUUM SWEEPER: Mrs. Pearl Heimsoth.

REPAIRING ORGAN: Eric Heimsoth.

BOOKS TO START CHURCH LIBRARY: Sunday School.

BOOK CASE AND FILING CABINET: Walther League.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HYMNAL FUND: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jagels in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jagels and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Heimsoth; Mr. and Mrs. Emil Stelling, Mrs. Pearl Heimsoth, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Viets, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Hagen, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Holtzen.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LIGHTING FUND: Mr. and Mrs. Emil C. Holtzen, Mrs. Frieda Bockelman, Mrs. Irene Oelrichs, The H. D. Heimsoth Family, and Mr. and Mrs. Erwin E. Heimsoth of Arora, Illinois.

REDECORATION OF CHANCEL: Miss Malinda Viets and The Ladies Aid.

Baptized Membership

An Asterick indicates Voting Members

Bahrenburg, Cleo* & wife Wilma: children; Janice, Jolene and James.
Bahrenburg, Leland* & wife Lucile.
Bahrenburg, Louis* and son Harland.
Bokelman, Mrs. Frieda.
Bockelman, Gilbert* & wife Josephine: children; Joan and Mary Lou.
Bockelman, Harry.
Brandes, Mrs. Hulda and son Loren.
Brandes, Melvin* and wife Eileen.
Busing, George and wife Bessie: children; Bobby.
Cordes, Mrs. Mary and daughter Nora.
Cordes, Mrs. Myrtle: children; Shirley and Charles.
Ehlers, Melvin* & wife Margaret: children; Kathryn and Sharon.
Fadler, John* & wife Pauline: children; Bethany, John and Karen Lynn.
Grother, Elmer* & wife Nora: children; Lucile.
Gross, Miss Frieda.
Hagen, Rudolph* & wife Johanna.
Hagen, Arthur* & wife Jessie: children; David & Julie.
Harms, Andrew* & wife Olga.
Harms, Eldon* & wife Elsie: children Steven.
Harms, Harold* & wife Lavera: children; Debra, Vickie, Randy, Stanley, and Russel.
Harms, J. Herman & Emma.
Harms, Martin* & wife Erna: children; Ruth and Larry.
Harms, Marvin* & wife Genevieve: children; Terry and Curtis.
Harms, Milton* & wife Sharon: children; Gregory, Dwane and Teresa Lynn.
Heimsoth, Mrs. Pearl.
Heimsoth, Eric* & wife Lois: children; Ellen and Cynthia.
Heimsoth, Melvin* & wife Ruby: children; Judith, Michael, Gerald, Patricia and Beverly.
Hobein, Hilmer* & wife Florine: children; Caroline, Deborah and Patricia.
Hobein, Wilbert* & wife Edna: children; Ruth and Ethel.
Holtzen, Donald & wife Charlene: children; Gayla June.
Holtzen, Edwin* & wife Viola: children; Ruth.
Holtzen, Emil C.
Holtzen, Ervin* & wife Alma: children; Mildred.
Holtzen, Richard* & wife Lavera.
Holtzen, Robert & wife Dorothy Mae: children; Alice Ann.
Holtzen, Roy.
Jaegels, Harold.
Jaegels, Herbert.
Jaegels, Mrs. Rosa.

Jaegels, Walter* & wife Lorna: children; Ethlene, Marilyn, and
 Rosalie.
 Mahnken, William* & Paula.
 Mazza, Mrs. Joseph and child Michelle Faye.
 Meyer, Amos*.
 Meyer, Mrs. Johanna and son Armin.
 Meyer, Paul* & wife Paula: children; Bernice and Matthew.
 Meyer, Richard* & Nora.
 Meyer, Roger & wife Barbara: children; Russel and Roxann
 Lynn.
 Meyer, Vernon* & wife Sharon: children; Clara Elise, Teresa
 Lynn and Ada Marie.
 Meyer, Wilbert* & wife Elfrieda: children; Kay Beth, Randy
 and Sherry Lynn.
 Miesner, Albert* & wife Martha.
 Miesner, Milburn* & wife Arlene: children; Joyce, Gary and
 Ronnie.
 Mueller, Elmer* & wife Annabelle: children; Sandre, Stanley.
 Gerald, Edith, Glenn and David
 Mueller, Emil* & wife Crene: children; Barbara.
 Schnakenberg, Emil* & wife Auguste.
 Schroeder, Fritz* & wife Minnie: daughter; Mary Louise.
 Schroeder, Walter C.*
 Simon, Raynond* & wife Edna: children; Ronnie, Karen and Lois.
 Stelling, Emil* & wife Paula: children; Lillie and Delores.
 Stoermer, Herbert* & wife Marvalee: children; Donna and
 Colleen.
 Stoermer, Otto* & wife Lena.
 Stoermer, Paul* & wife Dorothy; son; Larry.
 Vajen, Clarence* & wife La Ruth: children; James and Arlene.
 Viets, Erwin* & wife Lorena: children; Ronnie, Elaine and
 Gary.
 Viets, Hubert* & wife Malinda.
 Viets, Miss Malinda.
 Von Holten, Henry & wife Edna.
 Von Holten, Walter.
 Walker, Robert.
 Zimmerschied, Elmer* & wife Edna: children; Lester, Alice,
 Margaret, Eldon and Gary.
 Zimmerschied, John.

Anniversary Committee



Back row-Mr. Melvin Ehlers, Mr. Hubert Viets (secretary and treasurer of the committee), Mr. Albert Miesner and Mr. Eric Heimsoth; front row-Mr. Melvin Heimsoth (committee chairman) Mrs. Ruby Heimsoth and Mrs. Arlene Meisner. The pastor is not in the picture.

Anniversary Speakers

Anniversary speakers for the 125th Anniversary observance:

July 9--Rev. William F. Schultz (photo page 18)

August 13--Rev. Albert J. F. Meyer (photo page 15)

September 3--Professor Martin Naumann DD, who is teaching Old Testament courses in Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. (photo page 33)

October 8--Rev. Walter Schroeder (photo page 12)

Rev. Norman Heimsoth (photo page 33)

Church Council

Eric Heimsoth, president
Andrew Harms, vice-president
Milburn Miesner, secretary
Paul Meyer, treasurer
Elmer Zimmerchied, elder
Albert Miesner, elder
Melvin Ehlres, elder
Walter Jagels, trustee
Wilbur Hobein, trustee
Martin Harms, trustee
Hilmer Hobein, board of education
Marvin Harms, board of education
Clarence Vagen, board of education

